

REMARKS

Claims 32-49 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 32-49 have been added by amendment.

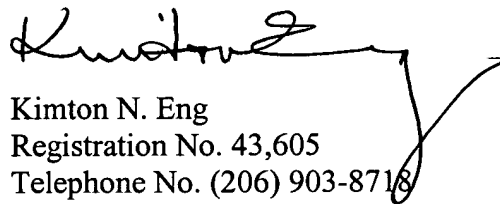
In the office action mailed September 17, 2004 (the "Office Action"), claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,628 to Von Bokern et al. (the "Von Bokern patent") in view of the U.S. Patent No. 5,809,228 to Langendorf et al. (the "Langendorf patent"). The rejection of claim 1 is moot in light of its cancellation by amendment.

Claims 32-49 have been added to claim alternative embodiments of the invention described in the specification. Support for the subject matter of claims 32-49 can be found in the specification, including the figures and originally filed claims. No new matter has been added by claims 32-49.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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